

Bailey Makes Track History

Jim Credits Landy For Inspiring Win

LOS ANGELES—"He inspired me to it." That's all Jim Bailey could say of his American record mile after his spectacular 3:58.6 upset of John Landy Saturday in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

The Australian runner who had once said that competing against his world record-holding countryman "sort of hypnotized" him credited Landy with providing the impetus for his track world shaking run. And that's all he could say about the income—after he finally began to convince himself of it—but not all he had to say about the race or its effects.

The colorful Webfoot flowed good copy from the time he caught his breath shortly after 2:56:08.6 p.m. PDT to somewhere around 6:26 p.m. Then he left the Coliseum with teammate Bill Dellinger and Art Litchman, Oregon athletic publicity director, to celebrate at dinner and talk some more.

It took the 40-man field of flabbergasted photographers 15 seconds to sprint the 50 yards from the finish line to Bailey, just beginning his slowdown lap. That was as far as he got. The swarm of cameramen over took him and took him over.

Half a minute later a second group of lensmen pushed the tired Landy into the ring toward Bailey and photographers began shooting anew. Bailey turned toward the record holder and exchanged a few words, then started to turn away. "Hey, Oregon!" yelled the cameraman. "One more, Oregon. Shake his hand, Landy!"

A television contact man managed to drag the pair to a field camera where an announcer tried to interview them while the still photographers fought for position with the TV crew.

Landy said little and Bailey fought back effects of an upset stomach as he talked about the race. "I didn't think anything much about a four-minute mile. No, it didn't seem that fast."

Stomach Trouble

Later he complained of his stomach bothering him. "Do you have to feel like this everytime you run the four minute mile?" and commented to Dellinger, "I told Bowerman (Oregon track coach) before that I had a poor stomach."

He finally got away from the newsmen, autograph seekers and photographers and took a jog lap, drawing a standing ovation from the several thousand on the backstretch side of the stadium. As he came back to the finish line, the public address voice announced the 25' 5 1/4" broad jump of UCLA's Rafer Johnson, but it was drowned as the heavy crowd side of the stadium erupted, spotting Bailey.

In two trips to the mammoth press box atop the Coliseum, Jim kept up the stream of talk that endeared him to the copy-hungry writers. Some samples:

Psychological Block

"I guess there's supposed to be some kind of psychological barrier to the four minute mile — when you approach it in a sectional time or something like that. I couldn't hear but about

one of the sectional times, so there was no barrier there."

About his patting Landy's rear end when he came alongside him on the final turn, "I got that one sectional time — the half mile, I think (2:03) — doubled it and figured we were going to have about a 4:06 or 4:08 race and I thought, 'what a disappointment for all these people who came to see the four minute mile,' so I took off."

"I slapped him on the rump in a race at home once and he took off like a shot — I figured he'd do it again." Landy said that he felt Bailey's slap, turned and saw a look on Jim's face that seemed to be "come on, John, let's make a race of it."

Bailey Strong

Later the record holder commented, "he's the strongest man I've ever run against. I've never seen him beaten in a tight race. He's just tremendously strong."

About his previous races with Landy, "This is only the second time I've beaten him. The other time was in the Australian half mile championship—but five other guys beat him too."

More about the 3:58.6 race itself. "I still can't believe it. I won't believe it until I see the pictures. The more I run the less I understand about track. I thought I knew it all several years ago, but I'm beginning to understand less and less."

Southern California's athletic publicist H. D. Thoreau came up with Bob Mathias, former U.S. decathlon sensation, and introduced him to Bailey and Dellinger. Jim chatted with Mathias about Rafer Johnson ("It looks like you're going to keep the decathlon title in the United States.") and kidded him about his 1500 meter race in London at the end of nine of the event's grueling parts ("You looked like you were going to die every step.").

Mathias agreed and noted that his 4:52 time was somewhat different from Bailey's 3:43.3 on the way to his mile win. The athlete turned movie star left, muttering "beautiful race, a beautiful race!"

Bailey turned to a writer and shook his head, "you wonder how a guy could ever go through all those events!"

Two Big Days

Somebody in the dressing room remarked about the "big day" for Bailey. "Two big days," Jim responded. "Yesterday we met Deborah Kerr. I suppose she'll think she's responsible for it."

In the press box again he chatted some more about his condition ("My stomach feels terrible — my legs are fine."), talked about Australian exchange students and America ("You have a wonderful country — the best in the world. A man can do anything here — go as far as he wants up the ladder.") and wondered some more about the race ("I can't figure out why Delany took out like he did, or why Landy let him.")

Thoreau came in again and said that the race was carried by three broadcasting systems in Australia. "Is that right?" answered Jim, but then lean-

(Please turn to page five)



JOHN LANDY, world mile record holder, sprints by the three-quarter point in 3:01.5 with a "comfortable" lead in the special mile race of the Los Angeles Coliseum Saturday. Half a lap later the fabulous Australian was challenged and beaten by another fabulous Australian in the greatest mile race in American history. (Photo by Chuck Mitchelmore)

Crowds, Reporters Thwart Rest As Milers Celebrate, Fly Home

"Is there any chance of going on to Portland?" Jim Bailey wanted to know as the United Air lines plane with the new American mile record holder, his teammate Bill Dellinger and athletic department publicist Art Litchman landed at the Eugene airport Sunday night.

"Not a chance," answered Litchman, "we're all out of money."

From the time the milers left the Los Angeles Coliseum about 6:30 Saturday night to their Eugene arrival Sunday, it was one continuous round of autographing and press interviews. The plane trip home did not provide much relief, as passengers recognized the famous pair early in the trip. Rough weather took over between Medford and Eugene, allowing little chance for any rest.

Runners Work Sunday

Breakfast came at ten Sunday followed by a workout on a nearby beach. "I think Dellinger was trying to run a 9-minute two mile. I just tried to jog along behind him," said Bailey.

Later a doctor strapped electrodes to the runners' legs and took cardiogram tests. "He said they were alive, that's all," said Litchman. "He said I was out of shape," reminded Dellinger, and the others laughed.

In the air Dellinger followed the California coastline from the window, Bailey bobbed back and forth from a magazine to the window as Bill pointed out sights Los Angeles sports section.

At the 25 minute stopover in San Francisco Dellinger ate a hot dog, Litchman drank milk and Bailey hunted for a place to mail a post card to Sydney. A fifth person joined the group briefly as a football line prospect from Mt. San Antonio junior college introduced himself.

On the plane again the travelers chuckled over the name of the stewardess who boarded in San Francisco (Miss Bailey), and ate a turkey dinner. At the state line the fog closed in and enveloped the plane and Bailey remarked, peering out the window, "we're back in Oregon."

"We'll take away your scholarship for that one," said Litchman, and Bailey countered, "I'll get something from the slush fund."

Dellinger Calls Relatives

The plane skidded into rain-washed Medford and Dellinger raced for a phone to call Grants Pass relatives while Litchman checked sports pages. Bailey remained on the plane and talked to the stewardess.

The seat belt sign flashed on 25 minutes before the Eugene landing and the milers leaned back, jerking up now and then to peer through the fog. As the pilot began to circle for the Eugene landing Litchman turned to his seat partner and said, "If there's a crowd, let's tell the jaycee kid we always do this for football prospects."

Milers Spot Crowd

The plane circled low over the field on the last run and the Oregonians spotted the huge crowd of cars behind the airlines office. Bailey made a face and turned toward Dellinger, who laughed.

The stewardess moved up the aisle, stopped and turned back, "what's it all about?"

"You've got a famous namesake aboard," came the answer.

"Well, I spotted a Jim Bailey on the passenger list, but . . ."

The cabin door opened and the crowd swept forward. Jim Bailey was home.

READ EMERALD WANT ADS

Oregon's Boy Runs 3:58.6 Mile; New US Record

By Chuck Mitchelmore
Emerald Sports Editor

(Editor's Note: The stories on the Bailey victory are written by Chuck Mitchelmore, sports editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald. Mitchelmore was the only regular staff member of an Oregon newspaper to cover the race in Los Angeles Saturday.)

LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM — Oregon's Jim Bailey became the toast of the track world and the fastest man on American soil here last Saturday with an amazing stretch victory over world mile record holder John Landy.

Bailey was timed in 3:58.6, a tenth of a second and two feet faster than his Australian countryman, in his upset win of the special feature race of the USC-UCLA dual meet. The run broke a host of records, including the American mark of 4:00.5 held by Wes Santee.

It was Bailey's tremendous final lap, fastest in the history of the sub-four minute mile, that told the tale in the sun-drenched Coliseum Saturday and brought the 38,000 eyewitness fans to their feet as they realized the invincible Landy was being beaten.

The flying Webfoot raced to a 55.5 last quarter as he came from behind Ron Delany, the Villanova star from Ireland, to nip the record holder and hold him off in the stretch drive.

Delany surprised everyone, including the others in the seven man field, by leaping out to an immediate lead at the starting gun. He turned in a 59.6 first 440, a full second faster than Landy in the number two spot. Bailey was third in 61.0.

The frightened Irishman led through the 220 point of the second lap before Landy took over, zipping to a 2:02.3 half mile and a 3:01.5 three-quarter. Bailey dropped to fourth place at the 660 spot, as Lon Spurrier, half mile world record holder, moved up from sixth to third place.

The Oregonian had his third position back at the start of the gun lap and began to move when he hit the far straightaway. He swept past Delany, caught Landy on the last curve, patted him on the rump as he came up and then kicked by him for the first under-four minute mile in the United States.

Delany was third in 4:35.5 and Oregon's Bill Dellinger, who ran in last place for nearly three laps, came up to take a 4:08.8 fourth. Jerome Walters of the Southern California Track and Field Striders was fifth in 4:09.3. Danny Schweikart of the Los Angeles Athletic club had a 4:12.1 for sixth and Spurrier, who dropped from fourth to last in the final 220, had a 4:15.8.

In addition to the American record, Bailey's run shattered the Coliseum standard, 4:00.7 also set by Santee, the Oregon school record, established by Bailey at 4:05.6 in his 1955 NCAA championship victory and the Coliseum 1500 meter record of 3:48.6, another Santee mark, replaced by the 3:43.3 clocking of both Landy and Bailey.